

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 16, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 5 and 13 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2-4 and 9-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5-8 and 13-20 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action indicated that claims 17-20 have been allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. Claims 5-8 and 13-20 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haas et al (“Haas”) in view of Tanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,171). Claims, however, 5-8 and 13-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As mentioned above, claims 2-4 and 9-12 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 13 have been rewritten to be in independent form by including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6-8 are dependent upon claim 5, and claims 14-16 are dependent upon claim 13. Claims 17-20 have been allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 5-8, and 13-20 are now in condition for allowance.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and overcome. Therefore, all of claims 5-8, and 13-20 contain allowable or allowed subject matter and should be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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